Acts 13:47 For these are the Lord's orders to us:
"I have set thee to be a light for the gentiles, to bring salvation to the end of the earth." (Isaiah 49:6)

Intro. Paul & Barnabas at Antioch
When rejected by the Jews they turned to the gentiles saying, Acts 13:47

All true believers in Ch[x]. constitute the apostolic universal Xn Church. We hold fellowship with all believers in Chr

We affirm our faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ as a gospel for all time, and particularly for the times in which we now live.

The God of Jesus Christ is the universal Ruler and Heavenly Father of all life. Jesus Christ is the best and only solution to the problem of sin which is still the world's primary and tragic problem. The Way of Jesus still remains our only hope for J

of establishing a society of righteousness and love. The Christ mind is final in all human relations

We affirm the actuality of the Holy Spirit, the ever-present living power today at work in building the kingdom of righteousness, peace & joy, who transforms personal character, family life, and all human relations.

A missionary was once describing the loving character of the Xn's God to a group of Chinese girls. As she went on picturing the the character & merciful attitude of God to his sinful children of earth, one Chinese girl said to her friend next to her, "Haven't I often told you that there ought to be a God like that?"

The present confusion & struggle of the world is a challenge to the churches of Christ. Just what is the matter with the church?

Spurgeon, traveling thru the Alps in Switz. Train came to a standstill. Got out to see. The wheels of the powerful engine were turning, but the rails were so

3) slippery the wheels did not grip & so the train stood still.

The Gospel wheels of the Church are turning around but the Church is not moving ahead — it has no grip on the affairs of men.

But just as the snow was cleared from the tracks & the sunshine melted the ice from the rails, enabling the train carrying Spurgeon, to move on again, so I believe the churches of Christ will soon recover its grip and go ahead on its destined way to redeem the world.

Signs are not wanting to prove that the Spirit of God is at work to awaken the Church:

The new sense of human insufficiency,
The eagerness of many for a closer fellowship with God,
The demand for ~~Church~~ Christian unity,
The craving for religious certainty,
The reality of spiritual truth already proven,
The dissatisfaction of things as they are,
The recent religious affirmations of distinguished scientists, educators & statesmen.
The increasing emphasis upon a Xn standard of education,
The continued triumphant operations of the missionary enterprise
The application of the Gospel to all of life.

4/ The time has come for every Xn and each congregation to examine that spiritual necessity which will lead to a fresh experience of inner grace and a renewal of spiritual power for service.

As a guide to such an examination let me present the following issues.

I. <u>The present spiritual need & expectancy of the church should be gratefully acknowledged with penitence & humble confession.</u>

1. We will confess with shame before Almighty God that we have failed Him.
   We have forgotten God, avoided prayer & the other means of grace.
   We have satisfied our own desires first, turning away from the crying wrongs of the social order. We have glorified our own achievements instead of our Lord.
   We have indulged our self-complacency, forgotten our vows, and have tried to get along without God.

2. We must return to God & surrender our wills to His divine will.

II. Our Xn standards as we live & practise them, must meet the expectations of the world at large.

The world is looking for a higher type of Xn than it now sees.

5/ The distinction between Xn & non-Xn must be clear & definite.

We cannot have a higher social order without a higher standard of personal Xn living.

There must be a revival of personal religion, of intelligent Bible study, of effectual praying, of a truer witnessing for X in word & deed & life.

III. <u>The Church of X must be exalted.</u>

The church in its worship, in its work, in its sacraments is a means of grace.

The church constitutes a fellowship & no member can absent himself ~~from the~~ without loss both to the church & to himself.

Irregular & indifferent attendance upon the church services in a ~~day~~ time such as ours puts the cause of X to open shame.

IV. <u>The training of the childhood & youth of the church must become the primary concern of parents & officers of the church.</u>

The leadership of the future depends upon the youth of the present.

Fathers & mothers should undertake the Xn training of their children & support the

of church in its efforts to give its youth the best of religious education possible.
Room for improvement in our own S.S. The Junior department a step in the right direction.
All S.S. teachers & officers should take their responsibilities more seriously.
The Primary Dept. greatly improved.
We need a better, more adult support, regular teacher's meetings.

V. The intellectual & moral issues which claim the thought of our modern world cannot be neglected by the church.
Xty takes in all of life & welcomes truth wherever found.
All truth is God's truth. As Xs believing in the truth and walking in the light, we must welcome truth coming to us from physical science, political science, philosophy & theological scholarship.
Prove all things, hold fast that which is good.

VI. The evangelistic & missionary objective must be made supreme in all Xn service work.
The K. of G. cannot be realized until the kingdoms of this earth are brought into alignment with God's righteousness & justice & peace & love & goodness.